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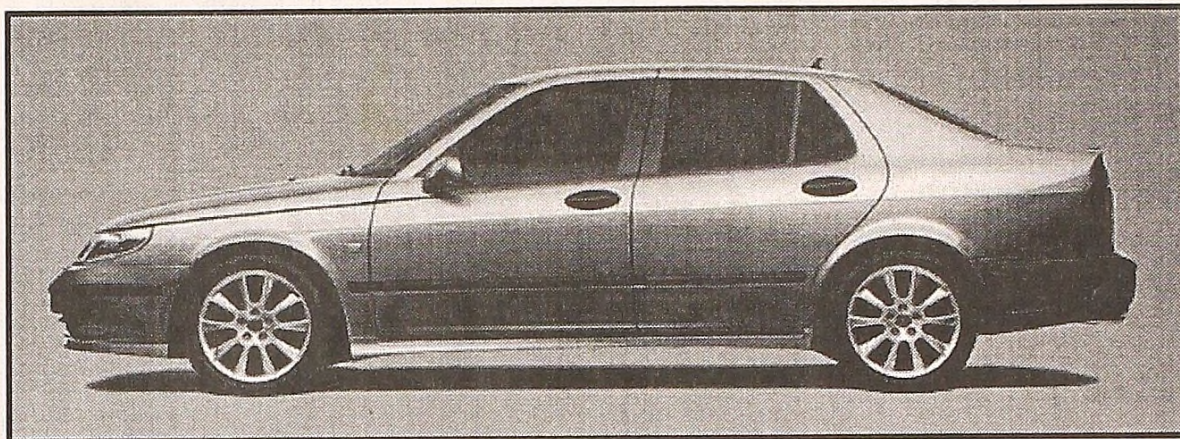
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3 years SAAB Sales Experience
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2.5 years SAAB Sales Experience
Gold Level Sales

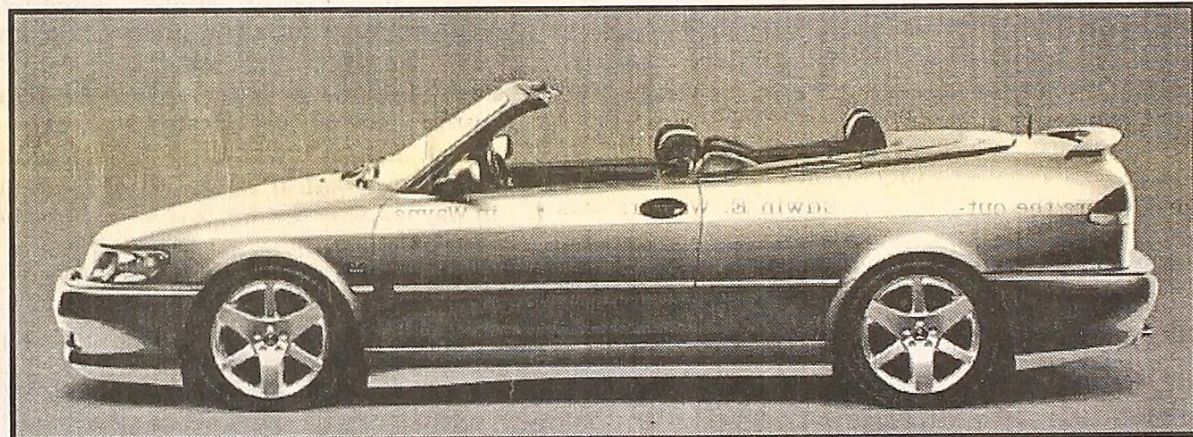
Michael Denney
13 years Auto Sales Experience



LEASE A
2002 SAAB 9-5
5-DOOR - GMS **\$299*** PER MO.
36 MONTHS
\$1295 Total Due at Lease Inception
w/Olds Loyalty. \$1795 w/Saab Loyalty.
\$2295 without.

LEASE A
2002 SAAB 9-5
5-DOOR - NON-GMS **\$359*** PER MO.
36 MONTHS
\$3,000 Total Due at Lease Inception
(includes down pmt., sec. dep.,
acq. fee & first mo. pmt.)

2002 SE Convertible



LEASE A
2002 SAAB SE
CONVERT. - GMS **\$359*** PER MO.
36 MONTHS
\$854 Total Due at Lease Inception
w/Olds Loyalty. \$1354 w/Saab Loyalty.
\$1854 without.

LEASE A
2002 SAAB SE
CONVERT. - NON-GMS **\$399*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS
\$3295 Total Due at Lease Inception
(includes down pmt., sec. dep.,
acq. fee & first mo. pmt.)

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NEWS FROM THE CITY OF WAYNE

Yard waste collection begins

DPW launches program

What's that about spring blooming eternally?

Some would add that spring brings yard waste, too.

Anyway, spring is here, and with it, and the April showers, are the flowers, the buds on the trees, lawn-mowing and, of course, that perpetual and irritable yard waste.

So, Wayne's Department of Public Works last week announced that DPW workers have resumed curbside yard waste collection. They are urging your support.

DPW will collect the waste until

Dec. 20.

Yard waste is defined by the DPW as grass clippings, leaves, very small twigs, potting soil, garden fruits and vegetables and old flowers.

DPW officials also stress that yard waste should be placed out for pickup on your regularly scheduled trash collection day. Separate yard waste from regular trash by approximately 10 feet.

Stickers are available at the DPW Office, located at 4001 S. Wayne Road, and at the City Hall to mark

containers as "Yard Waste". Branches must be bundled in lengths of 3 feet or less and not weighing more than 50 pounds.

All yard waste must be in brown bags specifically designed for yard waste or in standard 20, 30, or 32 gallon plastic or metal containers with a "Yard Waste" sticker placed on the side of the can.

Bags can be purchased from your local hardware stores.

Yard waste will be taken to the Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority and then transferred to an

approved compost site.

Marked cans and compost bags must be placed at the curb for pickup on the same day as regular refuse collection. City officials caution residents that yard waste must be separated from regular refuse when set out for collection by approximately 10 feet.

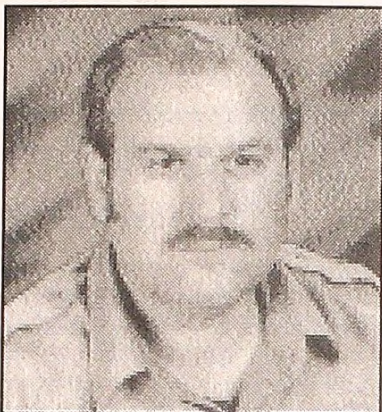
Residents who have questions or need further information are invited to call the DPW offices by dialing 734-721-8600.

Window on Wayne

Success stories of prominent businessmen

By RICHARD L. STORY
Wayne Historian

Wayne history is rich in success stories. Some detail the rise - and fall - of some of the most prominent businessmen and women of our times.



Richard L. Story

Here is just one of those stories.

Mr. Charles Attwood, who was employed at a Detroit Architectural Firm in 1922, was working on the problem of making a new type of cell structure for housing electrical power units.

Mr. Attwood's idea was to make a per cased-cell structure, then install them in the homes.

In 1926, Attwood moved his operation to the Village of Wayne and took over the Old Wayne Steering Wheel and Bow Works Building, which was located next to the Michigan Central Railroad at Sophia Street (Elizabeth Street) to work on his idea.

The new company was called Deceleco.

In 1939, just before the outbreak of World War II, Attwood started to make a metal framing system. The original molds were milled from wood at the Hillard and Riser Lumber Company on Brush Street, across from the railroad from the Deceleco factory.

In 1942, with the United States now engaged in the war against Hitler's Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, Attwood decided to change the name of his company to Unistrut and help in the war effort. It eventually became the largest manufacturing company of metal framing of its kind in the United States.

The Wayne plant employed 450 employees, and it also employed 450 more workers throughout the nation. With 55 service centers and outlets in Canada, South Africa, Australia and England, Unistrut had grown to the point where it could offer 300 different products for sale.

But, in 1957, the local manufacturer's plant was hit by a devastating fire. Much of the plant was destroyed, but thankfully later rebuilt.

In 1963, the Unistrut Company had only its manufacturing plant in Wayne. Chicago became the company's sales headquarters. Slowly the sales staff was moved to the Wayne headquarters.

Mr. Charles Attwood remained the CEO of the corporation until his death in 1964. Mr. Attwood was a member of the Village of Wayne's Planning Commission and one of the founding members of the Wayne Recreation Council.

In 1965, Mr. James Attwood, son of Charles Attwood, took over as President of the company. Mr. James Attwood was the first Mayor of the City of Wayne. He was elected by the City Council in 1960.

Mr. Edwin E. Walters was executive vice president; Mr. Wilbur Blair served as treasurer, while Mr. Duncan Duncan Millar was secretary.

The Attwoods also donated the cost to construct the pavilion at the Jaycees Park, at Second and Annapolis Road. The building was built with Unistrut materials.

The Wayne Community School District also was the recipient of many gifts from the Attwoods: Unistrut donated three buildings: the Horace Mann Building, at 4150 Hubbard Street at Forest Street; the Hoover Annex, at Stellwagen and Fourth, and Sheldon School, at 45081 Geddes Road in Canton Township.

The Attwood family later sold the business, and the name was changed.

The company was owned for sometime by GTE Corp, and today it is known as Allied Company.

Would you believe that the company that started at the turn of the century here in Wayne still operates out of a large plant next to the railroad, on Elizabeth Street.

Wayne, Garden City combine resources for fun activities

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

Laughter and recreational programs, including exercise, are probably the best therapeutic medicine one may find to promote health, according to some medical advisors.

Recreation officials in the cities of Wayne and Garden City believe so, so they have decided to combine their resources and offer residents therapeutic recreation programs.

Programs such as attending movies, bowling, baseball games, dining out and live theater performances are among some of the programs the two cities will be providing residents and non-residents in the upcoming weeks.

City officials note that activities will include a visit to the local Pizza Hut and a movie night at the State Wayne Theater. The historic movie house, located at 35310 Michigan Avenue, is just two blocks west of Wayne Road in Wayne.

Dinner will begin at 5 p.m. at the Pizza Hut. The State Theater is across the street from the popular Wayne eatery. There is a \$1 cost for participants, and \$2 for guests.

Officials stress that there is a reservation deadline of one week before each dinner event.

On May 20, the Wayne Community Center also will host a Mexican Fiesta which will begin at 6 p.m. and continue until 7:30 p.m. There is a \$10 per person admission fee for Wayne and Garden City residents. The non-resident participation fee is \$12.

Deadline to sign up for the program is May 10. Reservations must be mailed to or paid at the Wayne Community Center, Howe and Annapolis roads.

Family and friends are also welcome to participate in or volunteer for any of the programs.

Group homes are also invited to participate in any or all of the activities. However, they must provide their own transportation.

If a participant is handicapped, city officials request that the handicapped be accompanied by an aide or family member.

For a registration form, please contact the Wayne Community Center at 734-721-7400 or stop by in person to register at the Wayne Community Center.

The Wayne Eagle

(USPS #0310-610)

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The Inkster Ledger Star

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NEWS & NOTES FROM SMART

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NEWS FROM THE CITY OF INKSTER

County commissioners to hold Town Hall meeting in Inkster

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

The City of Inkster will host the Wayne County Commissioners' rescheduled 12th District Town Hall meeting on May 9 at the Booker T. Dozier Recreation Complex, Richardo A. Solomon, chairman, and Kay Beard, vice chair, of the commission announced this week.

The meeting will be conducted from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, May 9, at the community center, located at 2025 Middlebelt Road, in Inkster.

The 12th District, made up of Inkster, Garden City and Westland, is represented by Kay Beard, the longest serving member of the current commission.

The meeting was rescheduled from an earlier one canceled by inclement weather.

clement weather.

"This is an excellent opportunity for residents to learn about significant Wayne County developments and programs," Beard said.

The preliminary agenda items include:

- * Detroit-Wayne County Metropolitan Airport;

- * Neighborhood Revitalization and Low-to-Moderate Housing opportunities;

- * Health Care Programs for seniors, low income residents and businesses;

- * Juvenile Justice system improvements.

Commissioners stress that the meeting is one in a series of town hall meetings hosted by Wayne County designed to educate and inform residents about key issues pending before the county government.



Special people

The Holy Saturday Breakfast sponsored by the Women's Missionary Society at Womack Temple C.M.E. Church is a tradition in the City of Inkster. Fervent prayers, soul-stirring vocal and musical renditions, as well as a delicious meal, are part of a program that is anticipated and enjoyed by the guests. President Eva Thomas (above, at left), pictured with her daughter-in-law Minister Dorothy Thomas, who served as the Worship Leader, and the breakfast committee, greeted many local and area guests. A timely message was delivered by Rev. Barbara Lambert, pastor of Martin Chapel A.M.E. Church in Clinton Township. Other program participants were: Leroy Clark, Pearl Morris, Emma McQueen, the Detroit Missionary Singers, Theola Jones, Booker Dozier, Minister Franchella Foreman, Shirley Sharpley, and Willie Johnson. The Rev. Terrell A Jackson is the pastor of Womack Temple C. M.E. Church. Photo by Theola Jones.

A friend of the city, of past mayors is mourned

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

Unlike the majority of people in a city, Lottie Hardin was very much involved in her city government.

When her health was up to it, she would not miss a city council meeting. Past mayors, such as Mayor Edward Bivens, Betty Miller, Joe Davis, Jr., Bill Daniels, and Dr. Terrel LeCesne, upon entering the council chambers, would make sure they stopped where she was seated, and say 'hello' and briefly chat with her.

"She loved the dynamics of politics," said Gloria Steele, a longtime resident and close friend. "She would not actually speak at these

meetings, but she wanted to hear what each and every lawmaker had to say - their arguments, how they came upon their decisions and especially how they voted.

"Then, she and I would chat. She loved the city; and she loved the people who brought the city alive."

A lifelong resident of Inkster and the wife of Floyd Hardin, a former city employee, Mrs. Hardin died on April 11. The Rev. Sue Walls, of the Christ United Methodist Church, officiated and paid an enduring tribute to Mrs. Hardin as a person dedicated to her family, her church and to helping people.

"Her name was Lottie, a very attractive Snow White who wouldn't

miss going to church, or attend a council meeting and she also was a former member of the Social Development Commission," said Steele.

Mrs. Hardin also was a key player in the organization of the "Inkster Citizens for a Decent Community" and helped many prospective local office seekers realize their dreams.

One of her daily rituals was to tackle the challenge of crossword puzzles. And yes she loved to play cards, croquet, listen to the radio and watch her favorite ball team, the Detroit Tigers.

Mrs. Hardin is survived by her two daughters: Lois and Frances, sons-in-law Lee and Frank. She is also survived by seven grandchil-



Lottie Hardin

dren and nine great grandchildren, and two great, great grandchildren.

"Her family was the center of her life," added Steele. "But politics and getting involved in helping others was a very close second."

Library offers story hour

Library officials are inviting residents to participate in a wide range of fascinating activities during their spring session.

Atop of the list of programs offered by the library are a crafts and story hour. The program is designed for children ages 4 and over. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude at 7:30 p.m. and run through June 27.

Officials stress that a parent or

caregiver must remain in the library during the entire hour.

Registration is ongoing and may be made in person or by telephone.

To register or for further information, please contact the library at 313-563-2822. The Leanna Hicks Library is located at 2005 Inkster Road, one block north of Michigan Avenue behind the Inkster City Hall.

WESTWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Sealed Bids for Westwood Community Schools' Robichaud Sr./Jr. High School "A Wing" door replacement project, and three exterior door replacements at Thorne Elementary School, will be accepted until 2:00 p.m., Monday, May 13, 2002 in the Business Office, Westwood Community Schools, 3335 S. Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights, Michigan 48125. Specifications may be picked up at the above location on Thursday, May 2, 2002.

Publish: May 2, 2002

CITY OF INKSTER ABSTRACT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

THE City Council met at 7:36 p.m. in the Council Chambers on Monday, April 1, 2002. Present: Councilpersons Harris-Foster, E. Hendricks, M. Hendricks and Mayor Hampton. Absent: Councilwomen Bostedor, Coleman-Richardson and James. CONSENT calendar minutes from 3/13 Special and 3/18 Regular. RE-APPOINTED Mable Stroman and Willie Reid to the Housing Commission. APPROVED \$137.50 to Wade-Trim, tabled item resolution #02-3-165; solicitation of bids for salt; \$11,172.24 to Inland Waters; purchase of road signs, swings, sand and slag; purchase materials for spring street repair program; purchase of materials for Water and Sewer Dept.; six (6) month extension to Westwood School and Xetavior Bush; \$1,056.00 to Cross Connection; \$3,042.64 to Wayne County Roads; request to quit claim property attached to 3305 Allen; \$49,756.00 to City of Westland; acceptance of \$5,000.00 from the DDA to update Recreation Master Plan; William Acosta PLLC, JR Group and McKenna Associates, Inc., for Carver Homes Project; the week of 4/1-4/7 as Community Development Week. AWARDED contracts to Armstrong Painting, Inc.; J.H. Hart Urban Forestry; Michigan Autoland and Application Technology Group. MEETING adjourned at 8:45 p.m. (Full text available upon request).

Mrs. Kimberly Turner
Inkster City Clerk

PUBLISH: May 2, 2002

NOTICE CITY OF INKSTER RESIDENTS

ORDINANCE NOS. 191 AND 507 PROVIDES FOR THE CUTTING DOWN AND DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS WITHIN THE CITY OF INKSTER, AND PROVIDES A PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY THEREIN

It shall be the duty of every owner, possessor or occupier of land within the City of Inkster, Wayne County, State of Michigan or of every person or persons, firm or corporation having charge of any such lands, to cut or cause to be cut down and destroyed all Canada thistles, milkweed, wild carrots, oxeye daisies, asclepias, cornutus, ragweed, poison ivy, burdock, yellow dock, sweet clover, sand buffs, goldenrod, doddies, mustards, bindweed, perennial sowthistle, hoary alyssum, quack-grass, crab-grass and poison sumac or other noxious weeds growing thereon, at least twice each year, once before the first day of May and again before the first day of September, and as often as may be necessary to prevent said noxious weeds from exceeding a height of six (6) inches.

Kimberly Turner, City Clerk
Inkster, Michigan

PUBLISH: May 2, 2002

WESTWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT CITY OF DEARBORN HEIGHTS, CITY OF DEARBORN. AND CITY OF INKSTER, COUNTY OF WAYNE AND STATE OF MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION

An annual election having been called to be held in the said District on Monday, the 10th day of June, 2002, and the following are to be voted on that day:

To elect one (1) member to the Board of Education of said School District for the term of four (4) years, beginning July 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2006, inclusive.

THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Monday, May 13th, 2002 up to 8:00 P.M., prevailing local time, is the last day on which to register in order to be eligible to vote at said Annual School Election. Application for registration should be made to the City Clerk of the City of Dearborn Heights for those persons residing in that City, and with the Clerk of the City of Dearborn for those residing in that City, and, with the Clerk of the City of Inkster, for those persons residing in that portion of the School District lying within that City. Persons already registered upon the registration books of such Clerks need not register again.

TIMOTHY T. EMERY
Secretary, Board of Education
Westwood Community School District

Publish: April 25, 2002
May 2, 2002

CITY OF INKSTER INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Inkster will receive sealed bids at the OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK 2121 Inkster Road, Inkster, Michigan until 11:00 A.M. Monday, May 13, 2002 at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read for:

MEDIUM GRADE ROAD SALT

Specifications and bid forms are available in the Purchasing Department, 2121 Inkster Road, Inkster, Michigan 48141. Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Questions regarding specifications should be directed to Muzaffar Lakhani, Director of Public Services Department at (313) 563-9773.

THE CITY OF INKSTER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO AWARD SPLIT BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY IRREGULARITIES AND ACCEPT ANY BID IT MAY DEEM TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY.

Kimberly Turner
City Clerk
2121 Inkster Road
Inkster, Michigan 48141

PUBLISH: May 2, 2002

NOTICE OF ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF INKSTER
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual School election for the School District of the City of Inkster, Wayne County, Michigan be held in said School District on Monday, June 10, 2002 at the following places:

PRECINCT NO. 1: West entrance of Baylor/Woodson
28865 Carlisle Avenue
Inkster, Michigan
(For voters who formerly voted at the Woodson School)

PRECINCT NO.2: Meek/Milton Elementary School
1771 Henry Ruff Road
Inkster, Michigan

PRECINCT NO.3: East entrance of Baylor/Woodson
28865 Carlisle Avenue
Inkster, Michigan
(For voters who formerly voted at the Woodson School)

PRECINCT NO.4: Smith Chapel AME Church
3505 Walnut Street
Inkster, Michigan

PRECINCT NO.5: Administration Building
ABSENTEE
BALLOTS ONLY
Inkster Board of Education
29115 Carlisle Avenue, Inkster, Michigan

THE POLLS WILL BE OPEN for said Annual School Elections in each said polling places from 7:00 o'clock in the morning until 8:00 in the evening.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the four (4) year terms of one trustee of the Board of Education will expire at the fixed school year, June 10, 2002. Nominees seeking to fill said vacancies shall be voted upon and elected at the Annual school Election, MONDAY, June 10, 2002. THE NAME of the candidates to be voted upon for trustee of the Board of Education as follows:

**Four-Year Term
(Vote for no more than one)
John T. Rucker, Jr.
Samuel C. Christian**

ALL PERSONS having the following qualifications are entitled to vote at said Election provided they have registered to vote:

- a. A citizen of the United States;
- b. Over 18 years of age; and
- c. A resident of the state of Michigan for at least (30) days, And of the School District at least (30) days prior to the date of election.

Jacqueline Sledge
Board of Education
School District of the City of Inkster
Wayne County Michigan

Publish: May 2, 2002
May 9, 2002

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF ROMULUS

Romulus, Huron removed from Sullivan's commission district

The Michigan Court of Appeals has rendered a decision considering the 11th Wayne County Commissioner's District, deciding that Romulus will be removed from the District, along with Huron Township.

The new 11th District will include the Cities of Belleville and Wayne, and the Townships of Canton, Van Buren and Sumpter.

On April 12, an Appellate Panel consisting of Judges Kurtis Wilder, Kirsten Frank Kelly and Christopher M. Murray issued their opinion which concluded:

"In summary, the relief requested in petitioner's motion for rehearing is denied. Our opinion of October 26, 2001 is reaffirmed, and the proceedings commenced in this Court by the Petition for Review filed July 6, 2001 are now concluded.

In a press release issued by Wayne County Commissioner John J. Sullivan, the Appellate decision and the history behind it was disclosed to the communities involved. According to Sullivan there is a long and complicated history behind the reapportionment of the district. Originally new boundaries were submitted last spring moving Huron and Sumpter Township out of the district and into the 15th District. Due to tremendous growth in the cities and townships within the 11th district, boundaries had to be changed.

Sullivan represents 33,000 more people than the average district which consists of 137,000 residents. The original boundary change was challenged in court, at which time the Court of Appeals sent it back to the apportionment committee. In that opinion, the court said that the district still had 365 more residents than allowed for, suggesting that the apportionment committee correct the error and submit a new plan.

The committee decided to substitute the more heavily populated community of Romulus and Huron Township, leaving Sumpter within the 11th district.

The court has now accepted that plan, adopting the new 11th district, moving Romulus and Huron Township to the 15th District.

"I am very disappointed to be losing the communities of Romulus and Huron Township, as I have worked very hard to represent them at the Wayne County Commission over the past four years," said Sullivan. "However, I understand the changes had to be made due to the increased population in my district, and I will look forward to the opportunity to continue to represent the communities of Van Buren, Canton, Sumpter, Belleville and Wayne."

Former Marine charged in rash of airport hotel purse snatchings

By BRENDA GRACIN
MCN Special Writer

Romulus police have arrested Robert Lee Boone in connection with several purse snatching at area hotels in the past few months.

Boone, recently released from the United States Marine Corp, allegedly robbed the women to obtain money to support a gambling habit at Detroit casinos.

Three women were robbed while staying at the Marriott Courtyard,

The Doubletree, and the Marriott Hotel Metro Airport. Two women were approaching their rooms in vacant hallways when Boone knocked them down taking their purses in the process. One woman was in the parking lot at the time.

One of the purses was found in Detroit two days later with the woman's identification and personal items still intact.

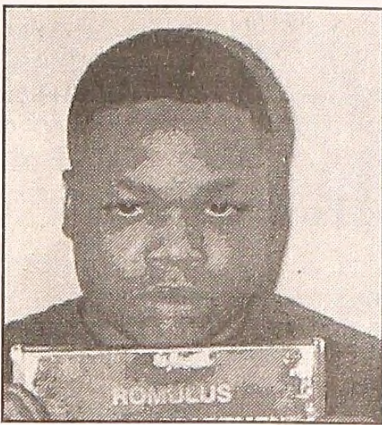
Boone had been arrested by Plymouth Police for similar robberies in that city. Upon his arrest, Plymouth police discovered personal property from the

Romulus victims among Boone's possessions. Plymouth Police notified Romulus, who sought a warrant against Boone for the robberies in their jurisdiction.

In a hearing before Judge Tina Brooks Green of the 34th District Court last Wednesday morning, Boone waived his right to a preliminary hearing, and was bound over to stand trial on three felony charges of robbery using force.

Boone will also stand trial for the Plymouth robberies after having been bound over for trial in the 35th District Court on felony charges.

Boone was returned to the Wayne County Jail in lieu of a personal bond.



Robert Boone

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Scott Griggs

VBT welcomes new officer

Scott Michael Griggs has always wanted to be a police officer. It never crossed his mind to try anything else. As Van Buren Township's newest officer, Griggs has realized his dream. He is the first police officer in his family.

A graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School, Griggs went on to Schoolcraft College to get a degree in Law Enforcement/Criminal Investigation. After obtaining his degree, he went through the Wayne County Regional Police Academy.

Griggs, 25 years old, will spend three months in training with the Van Buren department before he is able to go out on patrol on his own. Training consists of in house and field procedures, including record keeping, firearms, patrol tactics, and blood pathogens. Griggs began with the department on April 8th.

Griggs is happy to be with the department. "At times it has been a little overwhelming, but it is everything I expected it to be, I'm just very happy to be doing what I went to school for," said Griggs.

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City of Wayne:
Effective May 31, 2002 the following channel changes will occur:
QVC will be moved from channel 26 to channel 3, TV Guide Channel will be moved from channel 3 to channel 26.

Additionally the following digital channels will be added:
channel 105, C-SPAN 3; channel 109, National Geographic; channel 138, G4; channel 280, ShopNBC.

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Congresswoman Lynn Rivers Invites You to Coffee Hour at these Locations:

Friday, May 3 NORTHVILLE Edwards Cafe' 8:30 am - 10:00 am 116 E. Dunlap St	Monday, May 6 SUMPTER Jus' Bad Food 8:30 am - 10:00 am 25525 Sumpter Rd	Saturday, May 11 INKSTER Booker T Dozier Recreation Ctr 11:00 am - 12:30 pm 2025 Middlebelt Rd
Saturday, May 18 WESTLAND American Family Diner 8:30 am - 10:00 am 501 S. Wayne Rd	Thursday, May 30 NEW BOSTON Waltz Inn 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm 28104 Mineral Springs	Friday, May 31 PITTSFIELD Resnick's Deli 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm 4645 Washtenaw Ave
Monday, June 24 ANN ARBOR Ann Arbor Women's Center 9:00 am - 10:30 am 2425 W Stadium	For further information please call: 734-485-3741	

Time to swallow pride, deal with Edison Schools

I got the feeling that State Superintendent Tom Watkins is not going to mess around. From what I gathered from TV reports and written accounts, Watkins is a no nonsense guy and if the Inkster Board of Education and Edison Schools cannot fix their impasse, Watkins will take control.

I don't think the residents of Inkster want that. I know Edison might think dealing with the State versus the local school board might be better, but students and parents probably think differently.

Many of them probably think like I do—that this power struggle between the Board and the for-profit New York company they hired to run their school district is nothing more than politics at its worst. Schools are for teaching our children how to read, write and grow up in this complex world, and that is what our leaders should concern themselves with — not protecting political turf.

Watkins was in town last week to conduct a public hearing. That hearing lasted six hours as parents, students, teachers and community leaders had their say at the microphone. When asked what happens next, without hesitation, Watkins said, "I don't think you want something dictated from Lansing, but if it can't be resolved at the local level, then I will step in."

Stepping in means that Watkins will invoke Public Act 72, which gives the state the right to take over a floundering school district.

Watkins told the audience, however, if this happens, like in Detroit, the local school board would be disbanded, and "we would be dealing only with Edison."

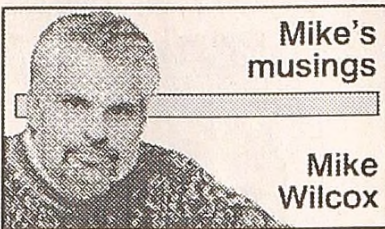
This would be catastrophic to many parents and students.

It also means, I believe, that the State would be looking at several alternatives to Edison. One possibility would be dissolving the district, and sending children to neighboring schools like Robichaud and Wayne-Westland.

Again, this is not an alternative many of us want.

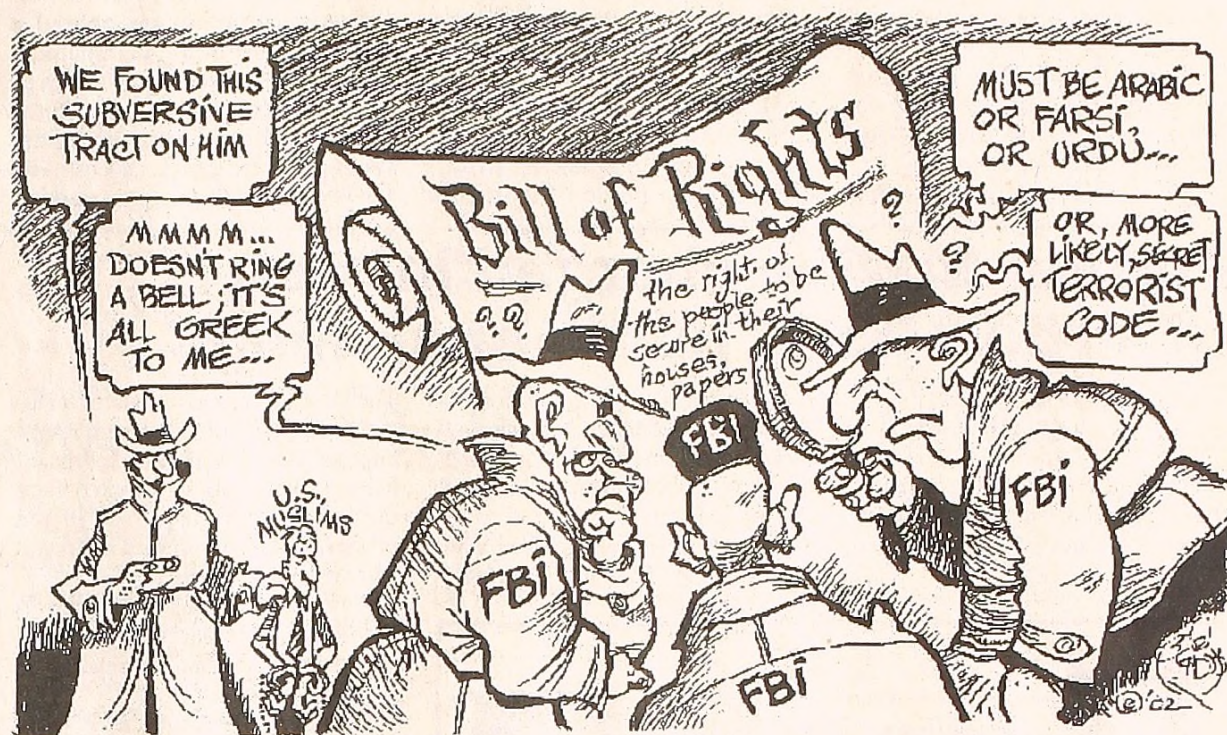
So my suggestion to members of the Inkster Board of Education would be to swallow our pride and forget about politics. You signed an agreement, for better or for worse with Edison and you need to try to work with Edison to keep the school district intact. I readily agree, that Edison hasn't been a very cooperative partner. I readily agree that they haven't kept a lot of promises.

But, saddled with the choice of state takeover, or dissolution of the district, the partnership with Edison, like it was when the contract was signed, makes the most sense if saving our local schools is the objective.



Mike's musings

Mike Wilcox



Who's to blame for area layoffs?

Layoffs suck.

Whether at Ford Motor Company, Plymouth-Canton schools, or the city of Wayne, job losses hurt workers, workers' families, companies, and companies' hometowns.

Though there are no silver linings in layoffs, experience tells us that good times follow the bad, and the solid companies, such as Ford, often come back with a vengeance.

Ford, a major Western Wayne County employer, laid off over 20,000 North American workers after the unprofitable Jac Nasser reigned.

However, because Nasser, who turned a business enterprise into a social engineering contrivance, was the first to go, I expect Ford to rise again.

"Our revitalization plan is based on executing the fundamentals of our business to build great products," said Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Bill Ford, when he announced the layoffs.

In contrast, Nasser had been committed to creating "diversity" instead of reviving "the fundamentals." So many of Ford's best designers and new car developers left the company after interpreting Nasser's statements about "diversity" to

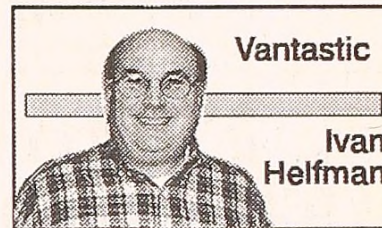
mean that promotions would be based more on skin color than merit.

Plymouth-Canton schools, which last laid off 18 teachers, unfortunately resembles Ford under Nasser. Both have the same Achilles Heel: a commitment to "diversity" instead of "the fundamentals." Consequently, the district has been losing students to charter and private schools, who focus on "the fundamentals."

Since each lost student costs the district more than \$7,000 in state per-pupil funding, the district had to pink-slip the teachers. Heaven help the "diverse" district when it has to pay for the operation of a new high school — unless, of course, voters follow Ford's lead and replace the current administration and school board with leaders willing to focus on "the fundamentals."

As for Wayne, it's \$17.8 million budget wasn't enough to fill five positions that are currently empty.

While City Manager John Zech can't fill the positions without money, he can be honest about why a small city like Wayne must go short-handed on a \$17.8 million budget while a giant township like Canton, with about a \$17 million budget, has



Vantastic

Ivan Helfman

money to burn. According to Canton accountant Karen Fox, as of Dec. 30, 2000, Canton had a \$8,640,530 surplus.

While the slow economy cannot explain the difference, another factor can: garbage. Wayne pays \$62 a ton to incinerate its garbage. Canton pays nothing.

While both are under long-term garbage disposal contracts, Zech argues in favor of maintaining the contract, despite the city services the diverted garbage money curtails or the millage it's forcing so the city can build an adequate police station.

In contrast, Canton renegotiates its garbage disposal contract to force the contractor to fund public facilities, such as the Summit.

Layoffs suck. Ford-like corrective action, not public administrators' self-serving excuses, is needed to turn things around.

Will federal bank get tax break?

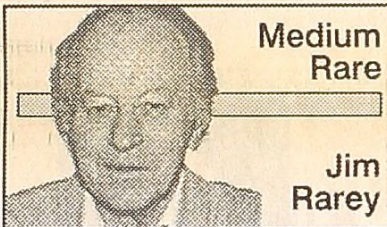
On April 23rd the Michigan State Senate took the first step intended to make the Federal Reserve Bank in Detroit eligible for a tax abatement. Tax abatements, usually granted by local governments, can forgive 50 percent of local taxes for a period of up to twelve years. Under some circumstances, the state executive branch can approve a tax abatement even if the local government refuses to grant it.

The original intent of the state law establishing tax abatements was to give cities a tool to lure industrial companies to locate manufacturing plants in their cities. Lately, abatements have been granted to keep a company from leaving the city.

Until recently a company could not move from one Michigan city where it has a tax abatement to another city within the state and then claim an abatement at its new location without the permission of the city it was leaving.

After an epic struggle between the cities of Troy and Warren over tax abatements for General Motors, the state legislature changed the law eliminating the requirement of permission from the city losing the industrial facility.

As the law stands now, engineering facilities engaged in research and development qualify as "industrial" operations and are eligible for tax abatements. The law is due to expire (sunset) on June 30th of this year. State Representative Nancy Cassis introduced a bill (HB5568) that would extend the law for five years as well as add electric generating plants to the definition of industrial facilities. It passed the House and went to the Senate where an amendment



Medium Rare

Jim Rarey

was tacked on.

The amendment provided, "Industrial property also includes a Federal Reserve Bank operating under 12 U.S.C. 341 located in a city with a population of 750,000 or more." This obviously applies only to Detroit.

At this point some may say, wait a minute this doesn't make sense. Federal agencies do not pay local property taxes. How can they get a 50 percent reduction of taxes they don't pay in the first place? Therein lies the dirty little secret that has been kept from most of the public for over eighty years.

The Federal Reserve Bank and its regional subsidiaries throughout the country is not a government agency, it is a private, for profit bank. It issues stock and pays dividends to its stockholders made up primarily of investment banks in the U.S. and foreign countries.

The Congress chartered the "Fed" as it is called in 1913. (Banks have either federal or state charters.) Over the years it has been granted extraordinary powers some believe are unconstitutional for even the federal government to wield. The Fed now controls interest rates, margin requirements in the stock market and other banks. It exercises regulatory control over bank holding companies. (Talk about the fox guarding

the chicken coop!)

But the Fed's most important function is working in tandem with the U.S. Treasury to create the money for deficit spending. Treasury issues (gives) the Fed interest bearing bonds. The Fed then creates a similar amount in the government's checking account. Since another function of the Fed is as a clearing-house for checks, the government's checks won't be bounced although the credit in its account was created only by an accounting entry.

The Fed, and whoever the Fed sells the bonds to, then collect the interest paid on the portion of our national debt financed in this manner. Between the Fed and the U.S. Treasury over three trillion dollars of debt has been created to be paid from future taxes.

Obviously, at least some of the Michigan Senators are aware that the Fed is a private bank and are doing there best to keep it a secret. Amendments to bills are normally introduced by a single legislator (either in committee or on the floor of the House or Senate). However the amendment defining the Fed as an "industrial facility" was introduced by a seldom-used procedure called a "committee of the whole." Thus the official record does not identify any individual senator as being responsible for the amendment. The amendment was passed, presumably by voice vote, although the Senate Journal does not say what voting method was used. It certainly was not a roll-call vote.

On second thought, maybe the Fed is an industrial facility. After all it does manufacture something, money out of thin air.

Kid Rock song boosts Web site

At the end of each of my columns, it says, "For more information or to contact Ben E. Jet, call (313) 730-1627 or surf to WWW.BENNYANDTHEJETS.COM."

I'm proud to say that the Web site just received its 250,000th visitor. That's 25 million hits, a lot for a little old band from Inkster.

Some of those hits came from people who read about it here. Some from seeing the Benny and the Jets van. Some from hearing my friend JT the Brick mention the site on his national radio show, 7 till 11 p.m. Fox Sports Radio 1310 AM. And a bunch of them hits came from people who heard Kid Rock mention it on his new CD.

That's right, Kid Rock's new CD, *Cocky*, song number three, "Lay it on me," says, "I got 1972 supercharged hemi, like El DeBarge, I feel like Lemmy, Benny and the Jets are hot, but you never seen nobody like Kid Rock."

So I guess it is only fair anytime Kid Rock mentions Benny and the Jets, I should mention his new CD, available pretty much everywhere.

Talk, talk, talk

Heard from a bunch of musicians including, JD, who has a band, a Web site, catzass.com, and has been working on a own CD; and guitarist Lemon James, who was nominated for a Detroit Music Award.

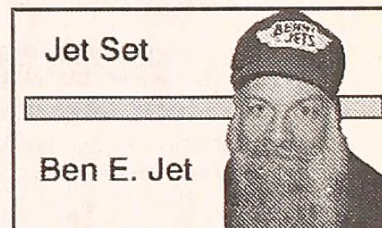
From blues guitarist Robert Noll, a former award winner. Also talked to Chuck from the Incurables, who says he likes to play pool Tuesdays at the Wayne Road Pub.

From Rob Roy, promoting their new CD. From Ken Mack playing at Lou Lariche Chevrolet's May 18 classic car show. Call (734) 722-6699 for info.

Heard from the Reflections, who will appear with the Teen Angels and the Contours on May 24 at the Hellenic Center. Call (734) 729-6683 for info.

From Brandon Taylor and Vello, still holding down the fort at the Bullfrog Bar in Redford.

From Rusty Lunchbox, who plays at Boulders in Plymouth; from Bridge, at the US-12 in Wayne, and the Cactus Jumpers at Club Canton.



Jet Set

Ben E. Jet

Heard from Joe, who plays guitar for Jamie Coe at Jammer II in Livonia. Joe says it was 10 years ago his lovely wife Lisa won the WDIV TV Entertainer of the Year award.

And from Government Honey, who might be the next hot band around town. Four young guys, a great drummer, doing the songs people want to hear. Hmmm, sounds like a formula for success. They have been playing at Jamie's in Garden City.

Also enjoyed talking to Phil, who at 80-years-old has fond memories of going to area concerts and dances to see live bands. He told me about a band called Red Nichols and the Five Pennies.

For more information or to contact Ben E. Jet, call (313) 730-1627 or surf to WWW.BENNYANDTHEJETS.COM.

SOUND OFF EXTRA — (734) 729-4000 X 206

Wayne's budget cuts should begin with the city manager's pay

I am a resident of Wayne who has lived here for 72 years. I hate to say it, but the management of Wayne is getting worse.

I read in the paper that the city manager is reducing costs in every area of the city. Why doesn't he start with his pay raise and those of his department heads?

Why the new police station right now, when we're in a recession? Are we in such a hurry to get it built?

If everybody else tightens their belt in Wayne, why not the city manager, with his raise? I'm sure that he's not hurting for money. I wish there was somebody on the council that lived in senior citizen housing. They wouldn't be so hot to give

somebody \$155,000 a year in pay. The council should take this into consideration.

Are clever people at City Hall ready to handle predictable cost overruns

I'm not sure why your newspaper is so vocal about the Dearborn Heights incinerator, but it seems that many of the warnings of costs overruns and rising rates, which a handful of citizen expressed concerns about years ago, are coming true.

Einstein said, "A clever person solves a problem; a wise person avoids it."

Mrs. Graunstadt, you were very wise in your prediction of this scandal. Now I guess it is time for the clever ones to step forward and help you cut. Any takers at City Hall?

Elected clerks' duties will remain the same, but not their behavior

Selection by election will not change the duty of Westland's city clerks, only their booty.

If elected city clerks' behavior in neighboring cities is any indication, they will be profit from campaign contributions in return for tampering with the city's elections and the city council's agendas.

Caller wants city council to know that the state governs the clerk

I'm under the opinion that Livonia has an elected clerk, who functions under state guidelines, not under ones from the mayor or city

council.

I called the council and told them that the state has a guideline for elected clerks.

They're mixed up, and I want them to have the facts.

Incinerator millage increase would heat house for two months

Westland residents voted no last year for a millage to feed the incinerator. This year it will show up again with some rewording.

Over the five-year life of the proposed incinerator millage, 60 cents a week times 52 weeks times 5 years = \$156. That is a two-month winter heating bill.

Will I be allowed to stand on the smoke stacks to stay warm if I vote yes?

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LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

BHS must be modernized

To the editor:

Overcrowding, aging buildings, and disappointed students were on display for everyone to see during two recent tours of Belleville High School.

"I could not believe my eyes," said Cheryl Myers, a mother with a daughter that will be attending BHS in 2003. "These kids are herded like cattle through absurdly overcrowded hallways and packed into classrooms built for much smaller groups. And this from a district that is experiencing rapid growth. This school is already bulging at the seams."

The tours were arranged after two recent meetings of a newly formed Facilities Study Committee. This citizen action committee was formed in response to a request by School Superintendent Larry Tabor to study conditions and identify shortcomings of the district's schools. They were asked to analyze how the identified problems affect the ability to effectively educate the students.

At the first Committee meeting committee volunteer and Belleville Mayor Tom Fielder invited attendees to contact his office to arrange a walk through of Belleville High School. Mayor Fielder, himself a former BHS teacher said, "We invited the participants to contact the principals at the area schools to see first hand the issues that were being discussed at committee meetings. Since I was a student at the high school myself and teacher and coach there for 28 years, I offered to show some of the committee members around myself."

The Mayor explained further the purpose of the tours. "We wish to address the major problems, if any, with the schools," he said. "We are not interested in peeling paint or dirty floors, those are maintenance issues. We are interested in identifying the major inadequacies of the schools if they exist."

Several Belleville residents accepted the Mayor's invitation and attended the tours. The first walk through took place on March 26 and happened during school hours. The second was after school and conducted on March 28.

Tracy Donley, a mother of two future high schoolers, attended both walk throughs and afterward said, "I walked the halls of the high school and peeked into places most don't see. I was appalled at the state of the school and the conditions that we ask these children and teachers to tolerate. The overcrowded halls are just plain dangerous, the building is almost an antique, the electrical system can't handle new computer labs, and the gym is an embarrassment. I had no idea."

Donley said that after this experience she was now considering finding alternatives to sending her two boys to BHS.

"I hate to say it, and I really can't afford it, but I may have to look to private schools for my kids," says Donley. "I just think that a parent needs to do whatever it takes to assure that their children get the tools and the education they need to succeed. I just don't think they can be taught about modern technology in such an ancient building. How can these poor teachers tolerate this work environment?"

Others in attendance spoke of the almost unbearable overcrowded conditions. They commented on the crush of students during class exchange, the one-way stairways, and the chaotic traffic flow. They listened to the complaints of students who shrug their shoulders and accept the unacceptable.

When asked about the conditions, Nicki Tyma, a ninth grader at BHS said, "You just have to find other ways around to get by the really packed areas. We share lockers and have learned to dress in light clothes since there is no air conditioning in a lot of the building."

She went on to explain that part of the high school used to be an elementary school and the facilities were obviously made for much shorter students. The bathrooms in the E-wing were made for little kids. The stalls don't even come up to your chin.

The opinions and complaints do not just come from students and parents. The teaching staff at the school

is facing increased class sizes and a lack of proper teaching tools. Space is at such a high premium that storage closets have been converted to makeshift classrooms and teachers must move from room to room during the school day all but eliminating preparation time.

Computers and science equipment are shared and teachers must make do with much less than is offered at neighboring public schools.

With other school districts offering shining new facilities and comfortable teaching environments, committee members are prompted to ask themselves how it's possible to compete with neighboring communities and to continue to attract and keep quality teachers. They wonder how much longer we can continue to provide the children of this community a quality education when the very buildings in which they are to learn in are getting worse each day.

While the members agree that the answers to these problems cannot be found in a few short months, they say that they are very dedicated to bringing the problems with area schools to light and have them addressed by the school district, the county, and the state.

Most members seem to agree that the only way to make Belleville High School an acceptable facility that is capable of providing students with a quality education is through sweeping renovations to the facility. Others point out that there is simply no space to grow out or up and an entirely new school needs to be built. The committee is scheduled to present its findings to the superintendent at its June meeting.

"It's obvious that we are falling far behind neighboring cities when it comes to educational facilities," says Myers. "No amount of band aid fix up is going to help this building. If we are to continue to see Belleville improve and see our community's children succeed, a new high school must be a priority. Every tax payer should take a tour of the high school."

Mayor Fielder encourages residents to see first hand the condition of area schools. He says, "Those interested in this should contact the principals of the appropriate schools to arrange their own walk throughs. I cannot say that I can be there myself to show folks around each time but I feel it is important for residents to see these issues for themselves."

If you are like most of those residents whom already took the tour you may agree with Tracy Donley, who said, "It seems that the three R's being offered at BHS are rundown, rickety, and ridiculous."

Chris Donley
Belleville

State, parents, educators discuss revising Prop A

By BRENDA GRACIN
MCN Special Writer

Parents and educators came together to discuss possible revisions to Proposal A at Livonia's Dickson Center Wednesday night.

Many state legislators agreed that the 1994 law, which altered state public school funding, needs revisions to help districts address financial problems that are seeing many district layoff teachers, close schools, and introduce pay-to-play measures for local sports and extracurricular activities.

David Plank, head of the Education Policy Center at Michigan State University, moderated the forum, attended by more than 50 parents and educators. He also had moderated the Michigan Citizens for Fair Public School Funding forum in March at Salem High School in Plymouth.

One concern was common among those attending the forum: the cuts districts are having to make to keep schools operating without a deficit.

"There is a problem here when rich districts have the ability to raise more property tax money to fund schools," said Plank.

Many districts complain constantly about the inequity in public school funding, saying that rich districts, such as Bloomfield Hills, receive far more money in per pupil spending than districts such as Plymouth-Canton and Wayne-Westland.

Mark Slavens, Plymouth-Canton school board vice-president, said he is happy to see the state addressing the problem. Slavens, who also chairs the Michigan Citizens for Fairness in Public School Funding, a grassroots organization that lobbies for revisions to Proposal A, has two children in the Plymouth-Canton district, and he worries that cuts due to financial problems causes by the proposal will hurt his children's education.

"As a result of problems with Proposal A, the district may have to lay off teachers this year," said Slavens.

In contrast, a South Lyon school board member said, "If someone over there is wealthy,

you have no right to their wealth."

He believes that there should be more efficiency in school operations and administration to save money.



Tom Watkins

Inkster High School Principal Cleaster Jackson said that all children deserve the same education, regardless of district wealth.

"Our children get \$7,287 per pupil," he said, comparing that with Bloomfield Hills, where per-pupil spending tops \$11,000.

Tom Watkins, state superintendent, will hold five other meetings statewide to address the issue, and to gather information from parents and educa-

tors as to what they would like to see done with Proposal A.

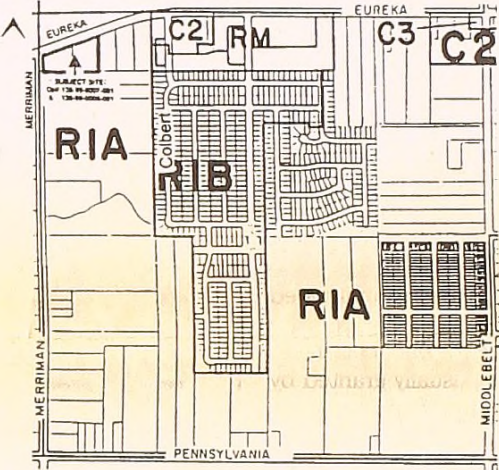
"This is not to take away from Governor Engler's legacy and the legislature that passed Proposal A, but the law is like a 1994 car," Watkins said. "Perhaps in 2002, we ought to ask if it needs an oil change, a paint job or a tune up."

Proposal A gave homeowners property tax relief but raised the sales tax in Michigan. It allows school districts to receive per-student grants from the state, this year ranging from \$6,500 to \$11,755. As enrollments decline or increase, so does the money received by a district.

Watkins hopes that by holding the forums, parents will become aware of the problems facing Michigan schools with state funding, and that parents will work to revise Proposal A, providing districts with more money to educate Michigan's students.

CITY OF ROMULUS
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the City of Romulus Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing for Monday, May 20, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485. The purpose of the meeting is to consider PC-2002-010, request to amend the zoning of 3.53+/- acres of vacant land on the south side of Eureka Road between Merriman Road and Colbert Street, Romulus, MI, DP#s 138-99-0007-001 & 138-99-0008-001 from R1- Single Family Residential to C-3, Highway Service.



All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon. Wednesday, May, 20, 2002 and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

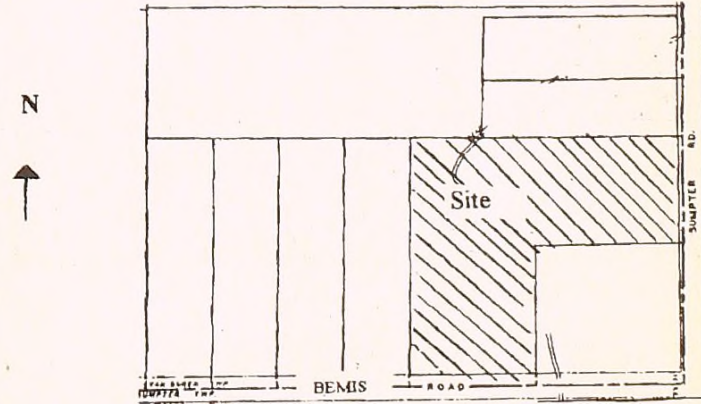
Publish: May 2, 2002

CHARTER TOWNSHIP
OF VAN BUREN
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan 48111 on Wednesday May 8, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.

This Public Hearing relates to approximately 7.05 acres, parcel numbers V125-83-99-0014-712, located on the north west corner of Bemis and Sumpter Roads.

A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The subject site is zoned C-1 (General Business).

The applicant is requesting special use approval to construct two retail buildings with a combination of 32,450 square feet, which is permitted in the current zoning district with special use approval per section 12.03 i. of the Zoning Ordinance.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date. In the spirit of compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Published: May 2, 2002
Posted: April 26, 2002

CITY OF WAYNE
NOTICE OF LAST DAY FOR VOTER
REGISTRATION FOR SPECIAL
ELECTION TO BE HELD JUNE 4, 2002

A Special Election will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2002, in the City of Wayne. Persons who wish to vote in this election must be registered to vote by May 6, 2002 and possess the following qualifications:

- Citizen of the United States
- Michigan resident for 30 days prior to June 4
- Eighteen (18) years of age on or before June 4

Voter registration application can also be made at an office of the following agencies:

Secretary of State
Department of Social Services
Department of Mental Health
Department of Public Health
Michigan Rehabilitation Services

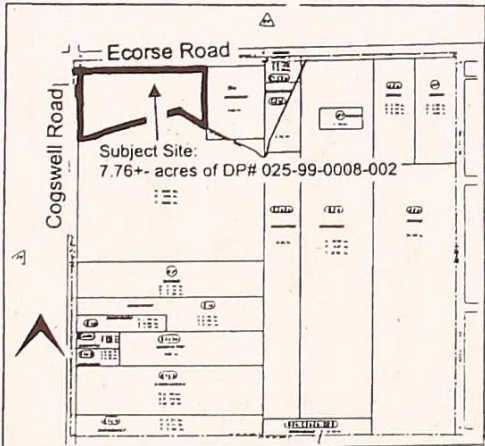
City of Wayne electors who have moved to a new address within Wayne should notify the City Clerk's Office.

Mary E. Carney
City Clerk

Publish: April 25, 2002
May 2, 2002

CITY OF ROMULUS
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the City of Romulus Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing for Monday, May 20, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485. The purpose of the meeting is to consider PC-2002-012, request to amend the zoning of 7.76+/- acres of vacant land on the southeast corner of Cogswell and Ecorse Roads, Romulus, MI; 7.76+/- acres of DP# 025-99-0008-002 from M-1, Light Industrial to C-3, Highway Service.



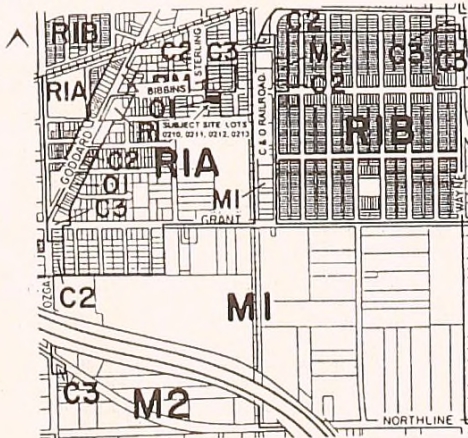
All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, May, 20, 2002 and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: May 2, 2002

CITY OF ROMULUS
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the City of Romulus Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing for Monday, May 20, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485. The purpose of the meeting is to consider PC-2002-011, request to amend the zoning of four (4) adjacent lots located on the southeast corner of Bibbins and Sterling, Romulus, MI, DP#s 078-01-0210-000, 078-01-0211-000, 078-01-0212-000, 078-01-0213-000 from O-1, Office District to R1-A, Single Family Residential District. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and will be given an



opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, May, 20, 2002 and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: May 2, 2002

SCHOOL NEWS

Board praises Baracy for ‘precision and care’

By BRENDA GRACIN
MCN Special Writer

Greg Baracy is the right guy for the superintendent’s job, according to the Wayne-Westland Board of Education.

On March 25, the board discussed Gregory Baracy’s job performance.

The evaluation praised Baracy for his efforts on behalf of Wayne-Westland schools and his dedication to the district.

Baracy was evaluated in professional leadership and per-

sonal qualities, curriculum and instruction, community relations, business and finance, employee relations, intergovernmental relations, and student relations.

In their written evaluation, Baracy had received high marks for his performance in all areas.

The report indicates that the district has many areas that need constant and immediate attention, and that Baracy handled all with precision and care.

The board praised Baracy

for guiding his staff, meeting the challenges that occur in the district yearly, and for his understanding of the curriculum and the instruction within the district.

The board praised him for placing hands-on-science kits in elementary schools to align the schools with national and state standards.

The report also reflects Baracy’s interaction with the community; parents, staff, students, and the media.

Crediting Baracy with the

district’s sound financial base, the board reported that his understanding of business and finance has put the district in a position to once again consider additional program enhancements.

The district has gone from deficit spending in 1995 to a current surplus of \$18 million.

The board also praised Baracy’s communication skills with them and with district staff members, reporting that Baracy is always willing to meet with anyone to answer ques-

tions and discuss concerns. He received very high marks for his ability to communicate with legislators about the district.

“We look forward to a continuance of his diligence and are confident that he will guide our district with skill,” said Skip Monit, board president.

Baracy thanked Monit for his comments.

“I commend my cabinet and staff for all of the support they offer and for their hard work, without this team, I couldn’t do what I do,” said Baracy.



Greg Baracy

Tabor’s contract extended

By BRENDA GRACIN
MCN Special Writer

Superintendent Larry Tabor, who survived a turbulent year that included two high profile criminal inves-



Larry Tabor

tigations of teachers, survived an April 17 school board evaluation.

At a special April 17 meeting, Van Buren school board members evaluated his performance.

Board President, Karl Gorham praised Tabor’s ability to steer the district through trying times.

“I’ve always found when he doesn’t have the answer he can always get it for me,” Gorham said.

Trustee Martha Toth commended Tabor for working well with everyone, for facilitating teamwork, for his outstanding educational leadership, and especially for the way that he handled the resignation of Marian Niner, the district’s public relations and business director.

“We are pleased with Dr. Tabor’s character, he’s always pleasant, and he has a lot of integrity and openness,” said Toth.

Trustee Susan Callahan said the district ought to set goals for Tabor that can be checked off for the 2002-2003 school year.

“If we don’t have goals, how do we evaluate him?” she said. “It is critical that the superintendent has goals so we can say we met the goals or we didn’t.”

“Hopefully I can continue to help, along with the Board of Education, to steer the district in a positive direction,” Tabor said.

During his tenure Tabor has had to deal with distracting issues, such as criminal sexual misconduct charges against South Middle School teacher Michael MacGuinness; and with charges against Belleville High School teacher Scott, who was charged with calling in a bomb threat to the school.

Tabor spent time assuring parents and administrators that the district was holding its own investigations into both matters, and would keep parents informed as to findings in both cases.

After the evaluation, the board extended his contract until June 2004.

Young Scientists

By BRENDA GRACIN
MCN Special Writer

Katelyn Fogg, 13, from North Middle School, was one of six “young scientists” honored by Van Buren schools.

Katelyn’s love for learning extends beyond the classroom. Her favorite class is math.

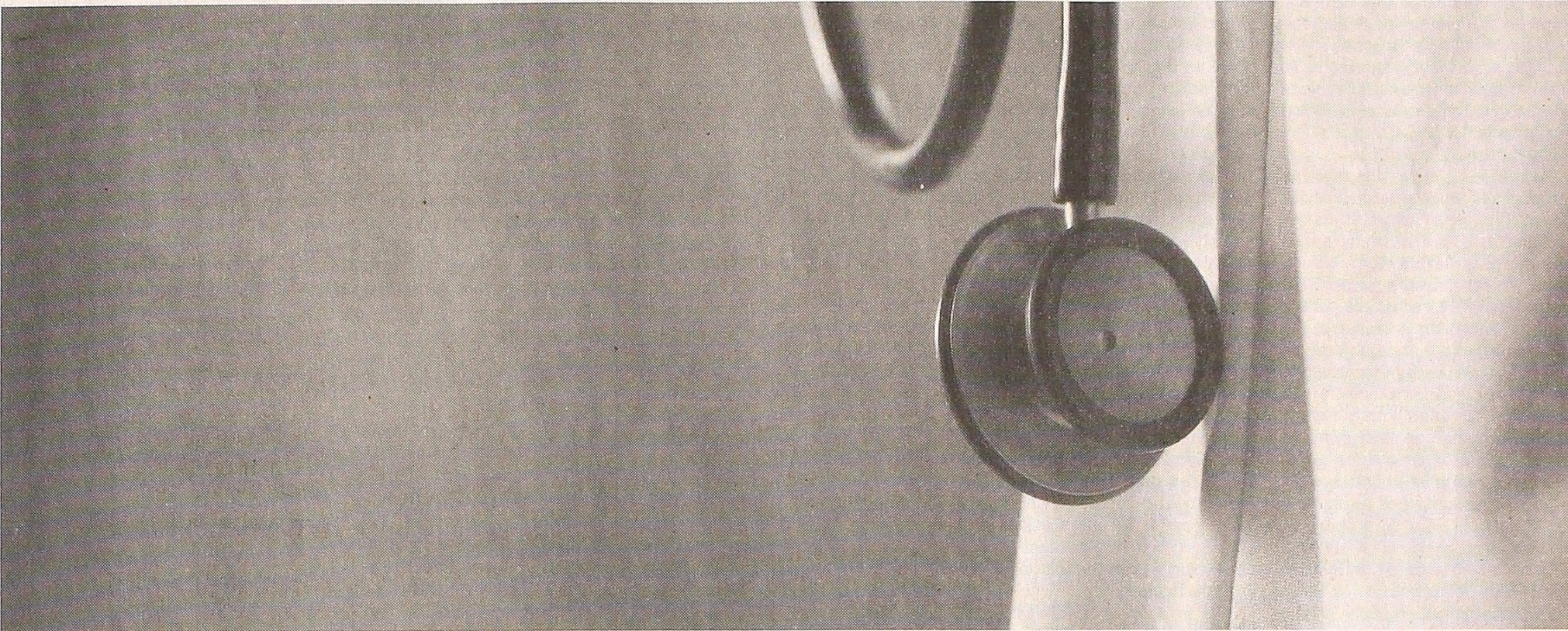
Laura Staffeld, 12, from South Middle School, works hard to understand science, her favorite class. She loves to ride her horse, Some Special Macho Man.

Michael Henry, 10, from Edgemont Elementary, loves to play piano, enjoys soccer, and uses the Internet to explore science.

Abrile Smith, 10, Haggerty Elementary School, works hard and helps other students. She loves swimming.

Colin Guimond, 9, Savage Elementary, has an interest in entomology; the study of insects.

Cary Thom, 10, Tyler Elementary, loves to read about science. For a hobby, he builds models.



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OBITUARIES

BRENT, MAGGIE L., 76, of Romulus (born in Morton, MS to George and Eula Mae Anderson), passed away March 21. She leaves behind to mourn her loss her children Toby Jr., Lonnie, and Barbara; eighteen grandchildren; great-grandchildren; family and friends. Funeral services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Rev. Joseph Stephens. Interment followed at Knollwood Memorial Gardens.

BURCROFF, JACK L., 80, of Belleville passed away April 11. Mr. Burcroff graduated from Romulus High School and attended Beloit College in Wisconsin. He served his country in the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Army in pilot training, as a medic and paratrooper. He operated JB Custom Canvas, producing boat covers and awnings for a variety of customers. He was an active member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Belleville where he was an usher for many years and a member of the men's club. He also received the Church's Man of the Year Award 1983-1984. He was also a member of Knights of Columbus Notre Dame Council No. 3021 and the Yankee Air Force. His passion in life was flying. He was generous, had a terrific outlook on life and was best known for his wonderful sense of humor and just a great guy. His beloved wife Pauline J. (Miller) Burcroff, whom he married in June 1947, will dearly miss him. He was the loving father of Cynthia (William) McPherson of Saline and Beth (Charles) Mancherian of Ann Arbor. Dearest brother of Dean Burcroff of Romulus and Paul (Beverly) Burcroff of Clayton. Dear step-grandfather of Warren Mancherian and Keven Mancherian. Many nephews and nieces also survive him. Preceded in death by his parents Fred and Bessie (Lewis) Burcroff and his stepmother Marion Burcroff. Funeral services were held at St. Anthony Catholic Church with Father Thomas Cusick as celebrant. Interment followed at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville. Memorial contributions can be made in his honor to the Michigan Brain Injury Association stating "In Jack Burcroff's Memory and for the Therapeutic Rehabilitation Center", 8137 W. Grand River, Suite A., Brighton, MI, 48116. David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville made funeral arrangements.

CLARK, LENORE, 66, formerly of Romulus, passed away April 11. Beloved mother of Ronald and Kimberly Clark. Loving grandmother of five. She is preceded in death by her husband Holland and her son Terry. Interment was held at Michigan Memorial Park. Funeral arrangements were made by Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, 30895 Huron River Drive, Huron Township, 734-783-2646.

FARMER, ADOLPH E., 62, of Detroit (born in Cleveland, OH to Frank and Della Evans), passed away March 17. He leaves to cherish his loving memory his lifetime companion Janelle, one daughter, five sons, seventeen grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, family and friends. Funeral services were held at Penn Funeral Home with rev. Willie David officiating. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery in Bedford Hts., OH.



JOHNSTON, EDITH LEOTHA
December 26, 1918 -
April 19, 2002

JOHNSTON, EDITH LEOTHA, of Canton (formerly of Wayne), passed away April 19 at Oakwood Hospital following a brief illness. Edith, along with her husband JC and son Larry moved to Wayne from Bethany, MO in 1946. They took up residence in a house at the corner of Sophia and Annapolis. Two daughters, Janet and Beverly, were born in the Sophia home. (In 1982 she adopted George McGrew, one of her foster children since 1963.) Over the years the Johnston's lived in homes on Elm Street and Clark Street in Wayne and Old Michigan Avenue in Canton. They were very active in their community and church. Edith was a Cub Scout Den mother, Sunday School teacher, Foster Parent (to more than 100 children from 1961-1975), and a Foster Grandparent in her later years. Sunday dinner fellowship was always shared with many foreign and local missionaries. Edith was known for her southern fried chicken dinner and chocolate cake dessert. She loved to sing and play the guitar and organ. Mrs. Johnston is the last surviving child of Porter and Minnie Clark of McFall, MO. She was the seventh of eight children (Delores, Velma, Vona, Ivan, Wayne, Oren, and Lowell Clark). Her former husband JC Johnston of Tucson, AZ precedes Edith in death. She is survived by her sons Larry (Sandy) Johnston of Ft. Wayne, IN; George Johnston of Canton and her daughters Janet (Joost) Barens of Pembroke Pines, FL; Beverly (John) Fuller of Wayne. Her grandchildren Vicki (Scott) Jensen and Sheri (Chris) Michetti of Mesa, AZ; Melissa Fuller and Tiffany Fuller of Novi; Jennifer Barens, Jessica Barens, and Frans Barens of Pembroke Pines, FL. Her great-grandchildren Tyler and Sydney Jensen; and Jacob Michetti of Mesa, AZ. Funeral services were performed by Mrs. Johnston's niece, Rev. Carolyn Holland at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home in Garden City on April 22. Interment followed at the Garden of the Old Rugged Cross in Cadillac Memorial Gardens, Westland. The family request any memorial donations be made to Hospice of Michigan.

JONES SR., ARTICE, 66, of Inkster (born in Good Water, Al to William and Julia Jones), passed away March 18. He leaves behind his loving wife Regina; his daughters Carmen, Wilma, Arlette, Recie, Hazel and Arlitta; his sons Artice and Anthony; seventeen grandchildren; family and friends. Funeral arrangements were made by Penn Funeral Home with services held at Mt. Olive Baptist Church with Rev. Frank Tillman. Interment followed at Detroit Memorial Park West.

MARTZ, RUTH CAROL, 88, of Westland (formerly of new Boston), passed away at St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia on April 22. Before moving to Westland, Ruth and her husband Jack owned Jack's Dry Good Store in New Boston. She also worked for Ford Motor Administrative Offices in Dearborn before she retired in 1980 and also worked for Fred Hogan in Belleville as a legal secretary. Her daughter Sue Marie Hall of Westland; her grandchildren, Carol (Stephen) Pilon of Canton and Lloyd "Chip" Hall Jr. of Westland; and also four great-grandchildren survive her. She is preceded in death by her husband Jack Norman Martz; her brothers, Dwight, Vernon, Lyle, and Forest (Bud); her sister Marie; and two great-grandchildren, Kelly

and Jackson. A private graveside service was held with Rev. Russell Sommers of the Church of the Nazarene officiating. Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorial donations can be made in her honor to the Church of the Nazarene in Flat Rock.

MAXWELL, JAMES A., 69, of Inkster (born in Salisbury, NC to Henry and Elizabeth Maxwell), passed away March 16. He leaves to mourn his memory his loving companion Delaris; his sons James Jr., Raymond, Ralph, and Karl; his daughters Gwendolyn, Brenda, and Reva; eleven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; family and friends. Funeral services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Elder Ronald Springer officiating. Interment followed at Knollwood Memorial Park.

MONTIE SR., LEONARD R., 82, of Belleville passed away April 12. He retired

from General Motors. His passions were golf and woodworking. He also enjoyed bowling, fishing, and hunting. Beloved husband of Louise C. (Mantel) Montie since November 1941. Dearest father of Leonard R. (Karin) Montie Jr. of St. Clair Shores and Charles D. (Donna) Montie of Brighton. Also survived by five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by his parents Elijah John and Charlotte (LeBlanc) Montie, four brothers and a sister. Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorial contributions can be made in his honor to the Alzheimer's Association. David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville made arrangements.

PAIGE, MARY L., 72, of Inkster (born in Gainsville, AL to Elijah and Mary Hargrove), passed away March 16. She leaves to celebrate her life her sister Jeanette; her daughters Gwendolyn,

Geraldine, and Delores; seven grandsons; seven granddaughters; twenty great-grandchildren; family and friends. Arrangements were made by Penn Funeral Home with services held at Union Grove Baptist Church with Rev. John Cole officiating.

SALA, KAREN A., 52, of Belleville, passed away March 31. Karen was a member of the St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville. Dear daughter of Francis D. and Maxine A. (Bohl) Sala. Dearest sister of Francis C. (Sue) Sala Jr. of Riverview. Preceded in death by her grandparents and her mother Maxine. Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorial contributions can be made in her honor to the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. Funeral arrangements were made by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

STEELE, LUTHER, 71, of Detroit (born in Fulton, MS to Archie and Sulla Steele), passed away March 16. He was a certified mechanic and worked for 27 years as a beef butcher. He will be missed by his sister Christal Faust; his brothers Raymond, David, Moses, Joseph, and James; his wife of 50 years Rosemary; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; family and friends. Funeral arrangements were made by Penn Funeral Home with services held at the Greater Mitchell Temple COGIC with Bishop John Sheard officiating.

STERLING WALSH, SHEILA M., 52, of Wayne, passed away April 10. Loving mother of Sherra Sterling. Beloved daughter of Evelyn Burr. Dear sister of Anita Richardson, John Sterling, and Rodger Sterling. Dearest grandmother of Samantha Sterling and Michael Sterling.

Funeral services were held at Uht Funeral Home. Interment followed at Romulus Cemetery.

VEREB, LORETTA EVELYN, 90, of Romulus, passed away April 13. Loving mother of Pearl (Charles) Kamin of Flat Rock and Danny (Yvonne) Vereb of Dearborn. Beloved grandmother of Michael, Robin, Karen, and Sharon. Dearest great-grandmother of Steven, Richard, Charles, Angela, Christina, Carolyn, Adam, Jason, Kendra, and Cameron; great great-grandmother of Abigail, Seth, Holly and Bethany. Preceded in death by her husband Paul Vereb and her grandson Richard. Funeral services were held at Crane Funeral Home with Rev. Dr. Geoffrey G. Druchas of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Taylor. Interment followed at Huron Valley Cemetery in Flat Rock.

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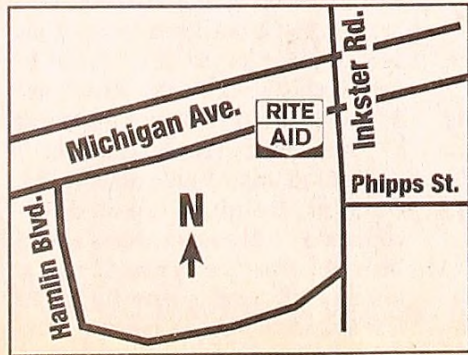
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Farmington ruins Glenn's perfect week

Rockets sweep doubleheader from Edsel

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

With one exception, Coach Todd Duffield couldn't have asked for a better week last week.

Duffield's Rockets won four of their five scheduled games.

The Westlanders culminated a successful week with a sweep of a doubleheader against Dearborn Edsel Ford. Glenn got a two-hitter and a 5-0 shutout from junior righthander Will Kennedy in the first game, and reliever Kyle Rutkowski stopped the T-Birds in the second game, 7-5.

The Westlanders edged Plymouth Salem, 6-5, in a Western Lakes, Lakes Division game that went into extra innings to begin the week, and embarrassed Northville

13-0 on Wednesday for win No. 4. Unfortunately, Farmington was ready for their conference rivals. The soon-to-depart to the Oakland Activities Conference ball club rattled the Rockets 13-4 to ruin the week for Duffield.

"With that one exception (Farmington), we had a good week," said Duffield. "Farmington was ready for us - that's for sure."

The marathon Glenn-Salem duel ended in the bottom of the 11th when Will Massey drew a base on balls, a sacrifice bunt by Craig Lewis advanced him to second and Coach Dale Rumberger decided to issue intentional passes to Nate Campbell and Ricky Verville which loaded the bases.

Rumberger's strategy backfired

as Joe Cickowski drilled one to third base and the throw home was not in time to nab Massey.

Brandon Ajlouny started on the mound for the Rockets. The Glenn ace worked the first four innings, struck out seven and walked one after giving up six of the 13 hits and two of the five Salem runs.

Duffield called on Julian Fraser, who pitched the next three innings, didn't allow a run and gave up three hits, while fanning three.

Fraser walked two before Kennedy came on the scene to get the victory.

Salem's pitchers had problems with Brian Ceckiewicz, who hammered three hits. Fraser and Massey each drilled a pair of hits, one of Massey's sailed for a triple.

Salem's Drew Parlens led the Rocks' assault. He had three hits for the game.

On Wednesday, behind Kutkowski's two-hit pitching, Glenn humbled Northville, 13-0. It was the first time in recent years that the Westlanders had "merciéd" Northville. Kutkowski collected three singles and walked one.

Massey had a perfect day as he put together four hits - two singles and a pair of doubles in as many trips to the plate. He also had two RBIs. Aaron Schwartz accounted for two singles and scored three times and Joe Cichowski connected for a three-run double in the fourth, with Kennedy and Schwartz aboard.

Farmington erupted for six runs

in the top of the fourth and added four more in the sixth to hand the Rockets their first setback in the Lakes Division. The visitors got to starting and losing pitcher Lewis for nine runs, seven of the team's 12 hits, to chalk up the victory. Fraser and Ajlouny also saw some action on the mound in this one.

Of Glenn's eight hits, Massey accounted for two - both singles, Fraser also checked in with a pair of singles, while Ricky Verville had a double and a single.

Kennedy two-hit Edsel in the 5-0 shutout game. He notched four strikeouts, walked one and enjoyed a no-hitter into the fifth inning when the T-Birds managed to collect their two hits.

Cichowski and Massey each

had two hits for the Rockets.

In the second game, Rutkowski, with assistance from reliever Nate Campbell, picked up the 7-5 victory as he struck out three, walked five and gave up three runs and five hits.

Down 5-4 in the seventh, Kennedy doubled in what proved to be the tying and winning runs of the game.

Duffield started the week off against conference leader Livonia Stevenson (3-0) and was scheduled to host Farmington Harrison, another team that will defect to the Oakland Activities Conference next year, on Wednesday. The Westlanders will round out the week on Saturday with a doubleheader at Belleville.

Tigers' title hopes fading

Although they managed to pull out a nail-biting, extra-inning 7-6 victory over Southgate Anderson, Belleville coach Chris Dessellier knows his ball club is in trouble.

An image-shattering 7-0 shutout inflicted by Garden City earlier last week put the Tigers in a 0-3 Mega-Conference hole and, although anything and everything can happen in the conference, the Tigers have to make it happen. They began the week with a 1-3 Mega-Red record.

"I've told the kids that we're still in this," said Dessellier, who is in his second year as head coach at Belleville. "Nobody has a firm grip on the title yet. But we can't stay in this race if we continue to play the way we did last week."

On Saturday, it didn't help any when Belleville lost a "triple-header" at the Chelsea Invitational where the Tigers fell 9-4 to Saline; 7-3 to Chelsea and 4-2 to Coldwater.

The only bright spot last week was the come-from-behind, last of the ninth 7-6 Belleville victory over Southgate.

Belleville reliever Brent Luzac got credit for the win after pitching three innings of no-hit ball. He struck out three and did not walk a batter. Luzac relieved starter Nate Gabrys, who worked the first six innings before Dessellier decided on a pitching change.

In the ninth against the Sabers, leadoff batter Billy Vantop walked, was sacrificed to second by Derek Dufrane. Vantop advanced to third on a throwing error and scored on Daren Parraghi's sacrifice fly.

Parraghi had an excellent day at the plate as he drilled two singles and drove in four runs, including the game-winner. Teammate Josh Ivan contributed a pair of singles and drove in one run.

Ivan and Parraghi accounted for four of the Tigers' seven hits.

As the week began, the Tigers found themselves in the middle of the Mega-Red pack. They are faced with hosting an excellent Taylor Truman (on Wednesday) and, on Thursday, the Railsplitters of Lincoln Park.

After a rare Friday afternoon off, Dessellier and the Tigers are back on the home diamond on Saturday when they will take on Westland John Glenn, a team that is a serious title contender in the Western Lakes Conference.

Wayne makes its move in White Division



3-teams tied for first place

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

What better way for Wayne Memorial and Coach Tom Wakefield to say "good-bye" to the Mega-Conference, Red Division than by winning the conference championship?

That's what Wakefield's ball club hopes to do before their scheduled departure to the Western Lakes Conference in September.

"Our goal is to win the conference," says Wakefield, whose team is tied for first place with Taylor Kennedy and Allen Park as Week 4 of the baseball season commences. "We have a shot at it, but we can't afford any letdowns now."

Wayne Memorial will leave the Mega Conference, a conference it is a chartered member of, at the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year and join the Western Lakes Conference. Wayne has been assigned the Lakes Division of the conference and will be competing against such familiar old rivals in that division as natural rival, Westland John Glenn. New opponents will be Walled Lake Central and Plymouth-Salem.

On Monday, Wayne won a crucial 8-3 victory over Ypsilanti as winning pitcher Tony Barber fired a four-hitter, notched seven strikeouts and walked only one.

Wayne pounded 12 hits off of three Braves' pitchers with Andrew Caldwell, a senior, drilling four, including a triple and a double and driving in two runs. Caldwell also scored four runs. Teammate Sean Monit chipped in with three hits in four appearances at the plate.

Wayne also turned back previously undefeated Allen Park, 4-2, in the conference as senior southpaw

Jim Barter worked 6 1/3 innings, fanned eight and gave up seven hits. In 20 1/3 innings this season, Barter has been phenomenal as he has given up merely two earned runs.

Wayne put the downriver powerhouse away with a four-run fifth inning as Chris Judd doubled with one-away, then scored on Marc Townsend's base hit. Marc scored when Ryan Ybarra also doubled and, after the second out, Tim Collop also doubled. Caldwell's base hit scored the fourth and final run of the inning. Caldwell, a senior who is batting an incredible .500 for the season, finished with a pair of singles.

Trenton swept a doubleheader from the Zebras in a crossover conference game. The Trojans beat Wayne, 6-4, in the opener and captured the nightcap, 6-5.

Ybarra held the winners to five hits and was the victim of his teammates' three errors. He struck out seven and walked two in five innings of work. Caldwell, who was on base three times, has an RBI single. Townsend contributed two singles and an RBI.

In the nightcap, Barber worked the first 3 2/3 innings before giving way to Bob Bailey. Trenton jumped on Barber for two runs in the first inning before Wayne got them back in the top of the second. But a three-run Trenton fourth proved fatal for Wayne.

Wayne faces three conference opponents this week as they head into May. On Monday, Woodhaven, a Mega-Red opponent, was their hosts, and yesterday the Zebras traveled to Wyandotte Roosevelt. They'll wrap up the week against Carlson.

Hockey fever

As the Detroit Red Wings advance to the second round of the Stanley Cup playoffs, their future stars flocked to the annual Wayne Parks and Recreation's Mini-Mites teams. Approximately 60 players, ages 5 to 7, practiced hockey drills from September to February, then competed in the Spring League Games during the months of April and March. Recreation officials note that the Mini-Mite program prepares budding hockey players to move up into regular league play. Head coach Roger Tompkins has been with this popular and successful program for the past 20 years. The 2002-2003 Instruction for Beginners sessions will resume on September 3, and will meet one hour twice a week, from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Pre-registration is scheduled for Aug. 26, 27, 28 and 29. For more information on this program, please contact Joe Bledsoe from 5 to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 721-7400.

Henn's 41 powers Wayne past Belleville to 1st place

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

Senior Amber Henn fired a 41 for 9-holes at Woodlands Golf Course in Romulus to power Wayne Memorial to a 25-stroke victory over Mega-Conference opponent, Belleville, as the Zebras remained in the thick of the Red-Division title race.

It was Wayne's sixth victory in seven matches. Their lone setback came at the hands of Monroe, the undisputed leader in the conference. Wayne will have an opportunity to challenge the front-runner on May 7 when the two arch-rivals meet for the second time this sea-

son.

If Wayne wants to have anything to say about who will be crowned the 2002 conference champ, it must find a way to beat the Trojans.

Belleville's best performance came from Laura Bennett who toured Woodlands with a 52. One stroke back was Karlie Hisir, who had a 53. The Tigers also received a 54 and 58 from Jaclyn Tinley and Aqueelah Ali, while Jennifer Jarvis checked in with a 63. Rounding out the Belleville scoring was Monica Udovich, who finished with 64.

Wayne's Ashley Laws also had an excellent day in the field as she chipped in a 48. The next best for the Zebras was Cindy Diehl's 51,

while Lindsay Fallow has improved her game. She carded a 52. Wayne also received a 53 from Christina Youmons and Kara Makino had a 59.

Earlier, Henn scored her season's best as she fired a 38 at the Southgate Municipal Golf Course to spark the Zebras to a 172-207 victory over Coach Jim Donovan's Railsplitters of Lincoln Park.

Henn's teammates Becky Knight and Cindy Diehl also had outstanding rounds. Knight produced a 43 for her "9", while Diehl had a 44.

Christina Youmans shot a 47 and Laws had a 51 in the Wayne's victory.

Romulus loses team captain Chapman to injury

Slide at 3rd base proves costly

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

A three-game winning streak ended in disaster for Romulus coach Keith Brothers and the Eagles on Saturday at Ann Arbor Huron.

After "mercy" victories over

Mega-Gold opponents Robichaud and Highland Park, and an impressive triumph over Ann Arbor Huron in the first-game of a doubleheader, the Eagles lost the second game to the River Rats and also lost for the season their team captain and leading hitter, Rog Chapman.

Chapman, batting a hefty .411 for the year, broke his ankle sliding into third base in the second game of the twin bill. Winners in the opener, 7-2, Romulus dropped the nightcap by a disappointing 17-7 score.

"Rog is very important to this team," stressed Brothers. "Not only is his bat reliable, but his presence

on the field and in the lineup gives our kids a great boost. Someone on this team is now going to have to step up to the plate and fill a huge void. And I am also going to have to find myself a leadoff hitter."

In the first game against Huron, Chapman drilled a pair of hits, and teammate Jacob Mercado laced two singles, walked and drove in two runs in the 7-2 victory over the River Rats. Winning pitcher Josh Phillips survived his teammates' inept performance on defense - the Eagles committed six errors. Phillips struck out a season high 10 batters, walked only one, while scattering four hits.

In the nightcap, Coach Brothers started Mercado, a junior southpaw, who was tagged for four runs in the first inning and was replaced by Ron Buckley in the second when the River Rats added three more en route to a lopsided 12-7 victory.

Henne pitched the last 2 2/3 innings.

Romulus was poised for a sweep as the Eagles broke loose for three runs in the first innings to take the lead. Huron's four-run bottom of the first ended the Eagles' plans.

Romulus managed to belt 11 hits, three of those by Mark Woody. Buckley finished with 2 for 2, includ-

ing a double and two RBIs.

While Dearborn Fordson, with a perfect 4-0 record is in the Mega-Gold driver's season, there are three teams - Crestwood, River Rouge and Romulus, with 3-1 records, who are battling it out for second. That second-place logjam is expected to break this week as the Eagles are scheduled to play Crestwood (Wednesday) and Rouge (Friday).

Behind Josh Phillips's two-hit pitching, Romulus crushed Robichaud 16-0 in a game called after 5 because of the "mercy rule." Phillips, a senior left-hander, gave up harmless singles to Marcus Johnson, who

also was charged with the loss, and to Darian Stewart.

The Eagles had a total of 13 hits against Robichaud as Chapman again latched on to two singles and an RBI, Mike Murphy had a double and a single and three runs batted in. Rick Rhinehart, with a pair of hits, including a double and four RBIs, and Henne, who doubled and singled, also had excellent games. Romulus disposed of Highland Park, 11-1, as Henne twirled a four-hitter, struck out a career best 12 batters and walked only one. The Eagles managed to collected seven hits, two of those by Buckley.

Wayne track teams picking up momentum

Love wins 2 against Wyandotte

Although they have dropped their first four dual track meets of the 2002 campaign, Wayne Memorial is poised to make its move in the Mega-Red.

"We have some very talented athletes here," said Wayne coach Floyd Carter who has returned to coaching track after a three-year hiatus. "We don't have the depth, but we have individuals who, if they continue to improve, will challenge the front-runners in this or

any conference."

Belleville launched the 2002 season with a 90-50 setback at the hands of neighboring Belleville, then dropped a 100-30 decision to a strong Dearborn Easel Ford. The Zebras came within a dozen points of beating natural rivals, Westland John Glenn (73-63) and in their latest outing, lost to Wyandotte 80-57, despite an outstanding performance by hurdler Henry Love.

Love captured a first in the high hurdles when he cleared the obstacles in 15.8. The versatile athlete, who also lettered in football last year, came back and also placed first in the 300-meter hurdles. He covered the distance in 46 seconds.

Wayne's A. J. Simmons placed first in the shot put competition.

His toss of 45 feet, 5 inches was the best for the day.

In the 100-meter dash, sophomore T. J. Dillard continued to shine as he led the pack to the wire. He was clocked in a 10.98.

Carter's 800-meter relay team made up of Antoine Austin, Delano Boles, Dillard and Darran Miller posted a 1:36 in winning the event.

Wayne also claimed victories in the 800-meter run thanks to the efforts of Nick Bonner, who crossed the finish line in 2:21.0. Teammate Antoine Austin put the 200-meter dash in the Wayne win column when he finished with a 24.5.

Wayne is not scheduled to run in a dual meet this week, but has been invited to compete in an invitational on Saturday.

Zebras are no match for Trenton

Wayne Memorial was no match on Thursday for title-hopeful Trenton in a Mega Conference, White-Division girls' dual track meet last week as Coach Kevin Miller's Zebras fell 95 1/2 to 40 1/2. The loss dipped Wayne's record to 1-2 on the win.

Wayne launched the season with a victory over Redford Union, lost to cross district rivals, Westland John Glenn, before falling to Trenton.

"We just don't have the numbers, the depth, to successfully compete, but we're improving," said Miller.

Miller's 800-meter relay team captured one of the five first places. With Tiffany James, Amanda Dye, Tersea Wilcox and Khelli Wade in the lineup, Wayne claimed the 800 event in 1:58.5.

Wayne's Danielle Miller, who happens to be the coach's niece, chipped in with a victory in the shot put. Miller's toss of 27 feet, 7 inches topped the field. Jennifer Anderson won the high jump competition when she successfully negotiated 1:58.5.

Wayne also took the 800-meter run thanks to the efforts of Kim Daniels who was clocked with the winning time of 2:48.5. And Tiffany

"We just don't have the numbers, the depth, to successfully compete, but we're improving."

Coach Kevin Miller

Davis placed first in the 200-meter event, crossing the finish line in 28.3.

Wayne gets down to business today (Thursday) at Allen Park where they clash with their next Mega-White Division opponent.

Future NBA stars flock to Romulus for Pistons' clinic

"How are your grades?"

"Does she show up on time?"

"What's his attitude like in school?"

"Do they smoke or use drugs?"

These were just a few of the questions Detroit Pistons Assistant Coach Steve Moreland asked well over one hundred first through sixth graders at Saturday's Pistons Basketball Clinic staged at Romulus High School.

As parents looked on from the

bleachers, "Coach Steve" told the children that the answers to those questions often determined if college and professional basketball scouts seriously consider looking at a high school or college player.

"It's never only about how good you are playing the game," Moreland told the children as they sat on the hardwood basketball court at Romulus High School. "It's about how good a

"It's about how good a student you are and how good a person you are."

student you are and how good a person you are."

At the end of the clinic each of the first through sixth graders had run a variety of dribbling,

passing and shooting drills. For their efforts, each child received an autographed Jerry Stackhouse poster and an autographed "Coach Steve" poster.

"The only way this clinic could have been better is if we could have accommodated all of the kids who wanted to attend," said Herb Buckley, Director of Romulus Parks and Recreation. "Because we had some of the best coaching staff in the NBA here, the clinic sold out fast. We're grateful to the Pistons and we're looking forward to sponsoring another Detroit Pistons clinic soon."

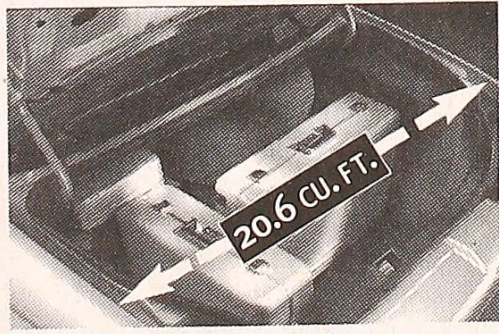
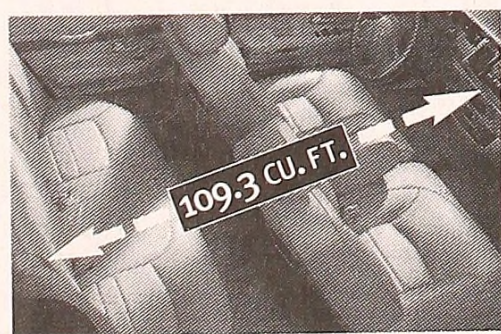


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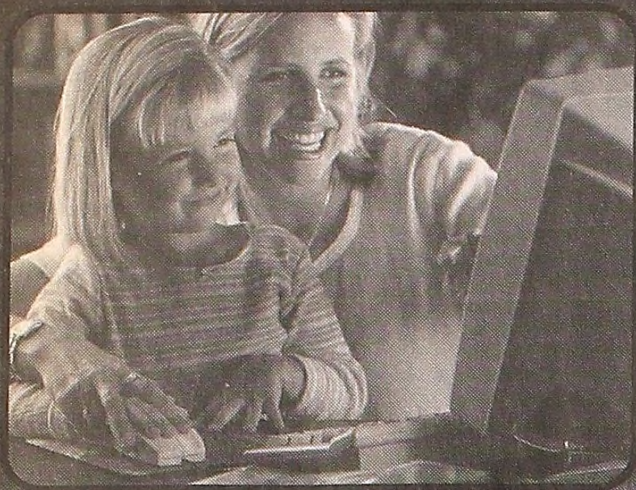
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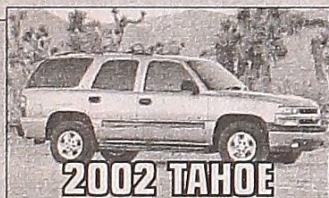
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